IN THE SPECIFICATION

The Descriptive Title of the Invention has been amended as follows:

~~A Stent Mounting Device and a~~A Method of Using ~~the Same~~a Stent Mounting Device to Coat a Stent

Please insert the following section before the "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" section beginning on page 1:

CROSS REFERENCE

This is a divisional application of U.S. Serial Number 09/896,000, which was filed on June 28, 2001.

Paragraph 8 beginning on page 3 has been amended as follows:

[0008] ~~The present invention provides an apparatus for supporting a stent during a process of coating the stent. The apparatus includes a member for supporting a stent during the coating process, wherein a section of the member includes a porous surface capable of receiving the coating substance during the coating process. The pores can have a diameter between about 0.2 microns and about 50 microns.~~

Paragraph 9 beginning on page 3 has been amended as follows:

[0009] ~~In one embodiment, the member includes a first member for making contact with a first end of the stent and a second member for making contact with a second end of the stent. In such an embodiment, the pores can be located on at least a region of the surface of the first or second~~

~~members. The first or second member can be made from a metallic material such as 300 Series stainless steel, 400 Series stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, hafnium, and cobalt chromium alloys. The first or second member can also be made from a polymeric material such as, but not limited to, regenerated cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyacetal, polyetheretherketone, polyesters, highly hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol, nylon, polyphenylenesulfide, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, and combinations thereof. The first or second member can also be made from ceramics such as, but not limited to, zirconia, silica, glass, sintered calcium phosphates, calcium sulfate, and titanium dioxide. In another embodiment, a layer can be disposed on the surface of the first or second member to absorb coating material that comes into contact with the layer.~~

Paragraph 10 beginning on page 4 has been amended as follows:

[0010] ~~In one embodiment, the first and second members have inwardly tapered ends that penetrate at least partially in the first and second ends of the stent and are in contact with the first and second ends of the stent. In another embodiment, the apparatus additionally includes a third member for extending within the stent and for securing the first member to the second member.~~

Paragraph 11 beginning on page 4 has been amended as follows:

[0011] ~~The present invention also provides a method of coating a stent. The method includes positioning a stent on a mounting assembly, wherein a section of the mounting assembly includes a porous surface. The method additionally includes applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein at least some of the coating composition that overflows from the stent is received by the pores.~~ In an aspect of the present invention, a method of coating a stent is disclosed including positioning a stent on a mounting assembly, wherein a section of the mounting assembly includes a plurality of pores; and applying a coating composition to a surface

of the stent, wherein the pores are configured to receive at least some of the coating composition applied to the surface of the stent that overflows from the surface during the application of the coating composition. In an embodiment, ~~The~~the act of applying a coating composition ~~can include~~includes spraying the composition onto the stent.

Paragraph 12 beginning on page 5 has been amended as follows:

[0012] In one embodiment, the method also includes at least partially expanding the stent prior to ~~the act of~~ applying the coating composition. The method can ~~also~~ include rotating the stent about the longitudinal axis of the stent ~~during the act of applying~~as the coating composition is applied to the stent. ~~and/or~~The method can also include moving the stent in a linear direction along the longitudinal axis of the stent ~~during the act of applying~~as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

Paragraph 13 beginning on page 5 has been amended as follows:

[0013] ~~Also provided is a support assembly for a stent. The support assembly includes a member for supporting a stent, wherein the member includes an absorbing layer for at least partially absorbing some of the coating material that comes into contact with the absorbing layer.~~

Paragraph 40 beginning on page 15 has been amended as follows:

[0040] In accordance with one embodiment, the composition can include a solvent and a polymer dissolved in the solvent. The composition can also include active agents, radiopaque elements, or radioactive isotopes. Representative examples of polymers that can be used to coat a stent include ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer (commonly known by the generic name EVOH or by the trade name EVAL)~~,~~; poly(hydroxyvalerate); poly(L-lactic acid); polycaprolactone; poly(lactide-co-glycolide); poly(hydroxybutyrate); poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate);

polydioxanone; polyorthoester; polyanhydride; poly(glycolic acid); poly(D,L-lactic acid); poly(glycolic acid-co-trimethylene carbonate); polyphosphoester; polyphosphoester urethane; poly(amino acids); cyanoacrylates; poly(trimethylene carbonate); poly(iminocarbonate); copoly(ether-esters) (e.g., PEO/PLA); polyalkylene oxalates; polyphosphazenes; biomolecules, such as fibrin, fibrinogen, cellulose, starch, collagen and hyaluronic acid; polyurethanes; silicones; polyesters; polyolefins; polyisobutylene and ethylene-alphaolefin copolymers; acrylic polymers and copolymers; vinyl halide polymers and copolymers, such as polyvinyl chloride; polyvinyl ethers, such as polyvinyl methyl ether; polyvinylidene halides, such as polyvinylidene fluoride and polyvinylidene chloride; polyacrylonitrile; polyvinyl ketones; polyvinyl aromatics, such as polystyrene; polyvinyl esters, such as polyvinyl acetate; copolymers of vinyl monomers with each other and olefins, such as ethylene-methyl methacrylate copolymers, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymers, ABS resins, and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers; polyamides, such as Nylon 66 and polycaprolactam; alkyd resins; polycarbonates; polyoxymethylenes; polyimides; polyethers; epoxy resins; polyurethanes; rayon; rayon-triacetate; cellulose; cellulose acetate; cellulose butyrate; cellulose acetate butyrate; cellophane; cellulose nitrate; cellulose propionate; cellulose ethers; and carboxymethyl cellulose.

Paragraph 42 beginning on page 16 has been amended as follows:

[0042] The active agent could be for inhibiting the activity of vascular smooth muscle cells. More specifically, the active agent can be aimed at inhibiting abnormal or inappropriate migration and/or proliferation of smooth muscle cells for the inhibition of restenosis. The active agent can also include any substance capable of exerting a therapeutic or prophylactic effect in the practice of the present invention. For example, the agent can be for enhancing wound healing in a vascular site or improving the structural and elastic properties of the vascular site. Examples of agents include antiproliferative substances such as actinomycin D, or derivatives

and analogs thereof (manufactured by Sigma-Aldrich 1001 West Saint Paul Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233; or COSMEGEN available from Merck). Synonyms of actinomycin D include dactinomycin, actinomycin IV, actinomycin I_1, actinomycin X_1, and actinomycin C_1. The active agent can also fall under the genus of antineoplastic, antiinflammatory, antiplatelet, anticoagulant, antifibrin, antithrombin, antimitotic, antibiotic, antiallergic and antioxidant substances. Examples of such antineoplastics and/or antimitotics include paclitaxel (e.g., TAXOL® by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Stamford, Conn.), docetaxel (e.g., Taxotere®, from Aventis S.A., Frankfurt, Germany), methotrexate, azathioprine, vincristine, vinblastine, fluorouracil, doxorubicin hydrochloride (e.g., Adriamycin® from Pharmacia & Upjohn, Peapack N.J.), and mitomycin (e.g., Mutamycin® from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Stamford, Conn.). Examples of such antiplatelets, anticoagulants, antifibrin, and antithrombins include sodium heparin, low molecular weight heparins, heparinoids, hirudin, argatroban, forskolin, vapiprost, prostacyclin and prostacyclin analogues, dextran, D-phe-pro-arg-chloromethylketone (synthetic antithrombin), dipyridamole, glycoprotein IIb/IIIa platelet membrane receptor antagonist antibody, recombinant hirudin, and thrombin inhibitors such as Angiomax ™ (Biogen, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.). Examples of such cytostatic or antiproliferative agents include angiopeptin, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors such as captopril (e.g., Capoten® and Capozide® from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Stamford, Conn.), cilazapril or lisinopril (e.g., Prinivil® and Prinzide® from Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ), calcium channel blockers (such as nifedipine), colchicine, fibroblast growth factor (FGF) antagonists, fish oil (omega 3-fatty acid), histamine antagonists, lovastatin (an inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase, a cholesterol lowering drug, brand name Mevacor® from Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ), monoclonal antibodies (such as those specific for Platelet-Derived Growth Factor (PDGF) receptors), nitroprusside, phosphodiesterase inhibitors, prostaglandin inhibitors, suramin, serotonin blockers, steroids, thioprotease inhibitors, triazolopyrimidine (a PDGF antagonist), and nitric oxide. An

example of an antiallergic agent is permirolast potassium. Other therapeutic substances or agents which may be appropriate include alpha-interferon, genetically engineered epithelial cells, rapamycin and dexamethasone. Exposure of the active ingredient to the composition should not adversely alter the active ingredient's composition or characteristic. Accordingly, the particular active ingredient is selected for compatibility with the solvent or blended polymer-solvent.